

# TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

JANUARY, 1990  
Issue No. 143

Stephen P. Alpert,  
Editor

**LAST CALL FOR 1990 DUES** Twenty of our members have not yet paid their \$3.00 dues for 1990. This represents half our membership (excluding all the new people who joined in late 1989 for 1990) as only 20 dues payments have been received. So if you are among those who haven't renewed yet, there will be a brown star by your name on the envelope this came in. Be sure to renew if you want to remain a member, otherwise this is the last issue of Token Topics and notice you will receive. Please mail your \$3 CATC dues to Stephen Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066, or come to the January meeting and pay in person.

John Barnes, our Treasurer, suffered a broken leg and missed our last meeting, so we have been unable to bank the dues checks received over the past few months; that's why the checks haven't come back to you yet.

**JANUARY MEETING** Let's start off the new decade with a well-attended meeting on Saturday, Jan. 20, 1-5 PM, in the Mercury Room of Mercury Savings & Loan, 22939 Hawthorne Blvd. in Torrance. I'll be bringing a lot of fresh material, plus some items for the auction; I hope many others will do the same.

**NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT** Only 5 members attended the November meeting: Steve Alpert, Dick Bestard, Ken Dingman, Wally Schidler, and Ken Smith. In addition, 2 guests dropped in (husband & wife, who collect aviation & sewing exonomia), their 3rd visit to our meetings, but they haven't decided to join CATC yet.

Wally brought several books & items for our auction, which was postponed due to low attendance. They will be auctioned off at the January meeting.

The new CATC officers for 1990 will be: Steve Alpert, President; Ken Smith, Vice President; John Barnes, Treasurer; Elaine Willahan, Secretary (assisted by Steve Alpert).

**LOCAL COIN SHOWS:** The Calif. State Numis.Assn.(CSNA), the Convention of International Numismatics (COIN), the Numis.Assn. of So. Calif.(NASC), and the Society of Int. Numismatists (SIN) have joined forces to present the Golden State Coin Show Jan.26-28, at the Pasadena Center (Fri. 12-7, Sat.10-6; free admission). And a few days later, Feb.1-4, is the big coin show in Long Beach (opens 10AM).

**FREE MEMBER ADS:** (Submit them to Steve Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066)

**CASINO CHIPS,** Gaming Tokens, Cards, Dice, Matches and Collectables. Casinos of Nevada, Atlantic City and International. We sell and buy. New Catalog - 63 pages and free gift. Only \$2.00. DEB's, Box 6445, Burbank, CA 91505

**WANTED:** 1973 CAMPBELL RIVER, BC Canadian Trade Dollar. Bob Gardner, 132 E. Carmans Road, E. Farmingdale, NY 11735

**MERCED COUNTY** numismatically-related items wanted, from: Atwater, Castle Air Force Base, Colony Center, Dos Palos, Gustine, Hilmar, Le Grand, Livingston, Merced, Merced Falls, Planada, Snelling, Volta, Winton, also Newman. Postcards of above wanted also. J.C. Hoffman, P.O. Box 723, Merced, CA 95341

**WANTED -** Trade tokens with town name being the name of a state, ie Wyoming, Pa., Nevada, Mo., etc. Also Order Of Owls tokens; & all Iowa. Jack Glass, P.O. Box 184, Fairfield, IA 52556



WANTED: Canning/packing tokens (any state) and B.P.O.E.(Elks) "Good Fors"/badges.  
J.M. Boswell, P.O. Box 428, Gambrills, MD 21054

WANTED: Transit tickets from bridge, ferry, stagecoach, toll road, turnpike, gate check, omnibus, merry-go-round, horse railroad, city/street railway, steamers, etc. No train tickets, please. Dan Benice, Box 10068, Rockville, MD 20850

LOU SMALL, new CATC member #288, specializes in World War I Service Medals issued by states, counties, cities and towns. Eager to buy or trade for these California WWI medals: Alameda, Pittsburg, Redondo Beach, Sacramento, or any other Calif. counties or towns. Lou Small, Box 19262, Jacksonville, FL 32245

AT CATALOGUE, plus SASE--AK190A-B-C, UTAH300A- at 3xs Catalog-best offer over--CANADA -Man-900-G-N.Bruns-300-B-N.Scotia-75-D\_E\_F. At \$1.00 each,Conn.350,NY355B,410D, Wis. 220P-Q-R-S, also at \$1.00 each TX1000B thru I,K. All car wash tokens wanted, especially SOFSPRA; have good traders. John Nicolosi, 2565 Portola Dr. #43, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

FOR SALE: "At Whitehead's/Bakery//GF/5¢/Loaf Bread" \$4.00 postpaid. Daniel Manasselian, P.O. Box 8342, Fresno, CA 93747

HOLLYWOOD Walk of Fame Entertainment capitol for the world. Bronze. Dollar size. Only \$1.86 prepaid. Two for \$2.86. Williges, Box 1245, Wheatland, CA 95692

MY 35TH Mail Bid Sale, closing Feb.22, has 2510 lots, and features trade tokens, amusement tokens, Civil War tokens, casino chips, gaming tokens and much more. CATC members-request your free copy; others \$1.00 if not already on my active mailing list. I buy all exnumia! Write. Steve Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066

WEIRD SCIENCE  
IN WEST L.A.  
by Steve Alpert

A small, obscure natural history museum, on Venice Blvd. in the Palms area of West Los Angeles, has been open a little over a year. If you're a fan of the absurd, the unusual, unexplained phenomena (such as this museum) or baffling exhibits, then visit The Museum of Jurassic Technology. There are about 30 exhibits in the dimly lit museum; many defy description or understanding. Most visitors wander around the exhibits befuddled and dumbfounded; others become outraged. Several exhibits have recorded narrations and "catoptric" optics superimposing 3-D images on the exhibit.

The feature exhibit and recorded program is on the Deprong Mori bat of South America, which allegedly can fly through solid objects by emitting extreme ultraviolet rays. Extreme ultraviolet light is also featured in an exhibit demonstrating "plasmotic postvisualization." Then there's the exhibit where a corpse-like figure softly talks about a cyclops in a camera store while an image of hands performing sign language floats above his head.

There is nothing exnumia-related at the museum. But the old Peale's Museum in Philadelphia is mentioned in an automated slide show on the history of natural history museums, and an ornate admission ticket to Peale's is illustrated in the museum's brochure. And if you become a museum member, you get a brass lapel pin of the museum's logo, a rock carving that looks like Mr. Potato Head.

The Museum of Jurassic Technology is at 9341 Venice Blvd. 4 blocks west of Robertson. Hours are noon to 6PM on Sat. & Sun., & Thurs. 5-9PM. Admission is \$2.50 (\$2 for seniors & students).



# TOKEN TOPICS

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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

MARCH, 1990  
Issue No. 144

Stephen P. Alpert,  
Editor

**MARCH MEETING:** We should have a good turnout for our Saturday, March 17 meeting, 1-5pm, at Mercury Savings & Loan (Mercury Room), 22939 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance. The highlight of the meeting will be the unveiling of Ken Smith's new book on foreign transportation tokens, which he expects to receive from the printer in time for the meeting (see his ad here). Our meeting was mentioned in the L.A. Times Thurs. Mar 8, Your Collectibles column; this should bring some new people to the meeting. And we'll have a club auction too, plus the usual token trading and discussions. Please bring some duplicates or material to trade; recently most people attend empty-handed, wanting to buy. Often I'm the only one with anything for sale. There will be many free copies of antique & coin publications, etc., at the meeting, as usual.

**JANUARY MEETING REPORT:** Eight members attended our last meeting: Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Dick Bestard, Kenny Dingman, Chuck Loy, John McNett, Ken Smith, and Elaine Willahan. Guest Phil Iverson (President of the Calif. Exnumist Society) informed us of his Golden State Coin Show in Pasadena, last January. We had a big auction - 28 lots, mostly books, plus some misc. collectibles, and even some tokens! Thanks to donations from Dick Bestard and Elaine Willahan, the club treasury earned \$30.70 from the auction.

**MISCELLANEOUS NOTES:** Token Topics needs news & articles from members, to fatten up each issue. Your editor is currently too busy to expand this issue. §§ I'm sorry to relate the passing of former CATC member Ben Odeser of Ill., who dies Jan. 10. He attended one of our meetings back in 1981 and greatly enjoyed it. §§ This issue is being mailed in the post office's new hologram stamped envelope. The postmark ink should wipe off the hologram of a colorful outer space scene. §§ For collectors of casino chips, tokens, & gambling & casino collectibles, the 2nd Casino Collectibles show is Sat. Mar. 17, 9-4pm, in the Bellflower Masonic Hall, 9813 Beach St., Bellflower (\$3 admission). That's the same day as our CATC meeting, but there's time enough to take in both. §§ We had a good membership renewal for 1990, losing only 6 members. We currently have 57 paid members. New members are: Rich Burnham of Redondo Beach, CA (#304); John McNett of El Toro, CA (#305); Cecil Meeker of Fairmont, MN (#306); & Sam Petry of St. John, IN (#307).

**FREE MEMBER ADS:** (send to Steve Alpert)

Will trade my "50" different tokens and medals for your "50" diff. Sam Petry, P.O. Box 167, St. John, IN 46373

New book for sale. "Catalogue of World Horsecar, Horse Omnibus, Streetcar and Bus Transportation Tokens Except North America" 1990 Edition, by Kenneth E. Smith and Kirk S. Smith, \$15.00 plus \$1.75 postage & mailer total \$16.75. Order from Kenneth E. Smith, 328 Ave. F, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

**WANTED** - Iowa trade tokens, Iowa rectangular cardboard tokens, Iowa Dun and Bradstreets, and Iowa food stamp tokens. For sale: Iowa City Trade Tokens by Steve Schooley, \$15 postpaid. Dan Anderson, 303 Melrose Court, Iowa City, IA 52246

Cataloging Nebraska merchant trade tokens. Send listings or rubbings of military, saloon, dairy & etc. Postage refunded, credits given or will not reveal. Hosek, 7411 Idledale, Omaha, NE 68112

You needed some of the 20,415 tokens and medals Williges sold in 1989. Free! At least next 3 exnumic fixed price lists. Williges, Box 1245, Wheatland, CA 95692

Charge Coins and all state issued metal Chauffeur's Badges wanted. Mike O'Brien, 2305 Coach & Surrey Ln., Aurora, IL 60506

For sale at quoted prices plus SASE: CA-1000-P-S-T-U-V-W-X-AA-50-each-AJ(oak)\$2.50 \$2.50-CT-35-O-\$1.00 ARMT-301-O-\$1.00-B-\$3.00-G-\$2.00-K-\$2.00 303A-\$2.50 MD-550-P-\$1.00-Mi-225-P-530-M-N-670-E-F-G- \$1.00 ea. N.Y.-355-B-410-D-\$1.00 ea-Wi-220-R-S-P-Q-\$1.00ea. Wanted all Sofspra Car Wash Tokens good traders available also all others and also trades available. Trade Sofspra for Sofspra. John Nicolosi, 2565 Portola Dr., Space 43, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**WANTED:** Magic tokens, Beer & Brewery tokens medals & tags, old billiard tokens, old hobo nickels, and exnumia picturing insects (the more unusual the better). Steve Alpert, P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066

## MORE DATA ON GAMBLING SHIPS:

A local newspaper article this month related the history of a ship that operated for many years as a gambling ship, under several different names. This supplements previous data published in Token Topics. The history of this ship and its many name changes follows:

HMS Mistletoe (1918, to counter U-boats) → Chiapas (Mexican cargo ship, 1922) → renamed La Playa de Ensenada (mid 1920s) → La Playa (gambling ship off Baja, Calif., early 1930s) → City of Panama (gambling ship off Santa Monica, 1933) → Star of Hollywood (gambling ship) → Texas (gambling ship off San Pedro and Santa Monica, until 1939) → Star of Scotland (fishing barge off Santa Monica Pier, 1940 until it sunk in 1942. The ship has since been picked clean by divers, removing everything possible of collectable value.



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MAY, 1990  
Issue No. 145

Stephen P. Alpert,  
Editor

**MAY MEETING:** Join us on Saturday, May 19th, 1-5 PM, for our next CATC meeting, at Mercury Savings & Loan (Mercury Room), 22939 Hawthorne Blvd. in Torrance. Ken Smith will have his new book on foreign transportation tokens available at the meeting, for you to get your autographed copy. (The book didn't arrive in time for the March meeting.) We had lots of activity last meeting from the several notices in the Los Angeles Times, and some of those people probably will visit again at the May meeting, which won't be as hectic. As always, try to bring something for the auction. We also managed to get in a small auction at the meeting: various tokens and books. The club treasury realized \$6.85, thanks to donations from Elaine Willahan, Dick Bestard, and John Barnes.

**MARCH MEETING REPORT:** Our March meeting received publicity in the Los Angeles Times on four different days, in the Your Coins and Your Collectibles columns, and the Yesterday's Treasures column on antique shows. All that accounted for the 30 to 50 new people (we couldn't keep count) who attended the meeting or dropped in with material to be identified, appraised, or sold, plus some who came to buy. Our regular members in attendance (at times lost in the crowd, so I hope all are mentioned) were Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Dick Bestard, Bob & Harriet Carter, John McNett, Wally Shidler, Ken Smith, and Elaine Willahan.

Some interesting items were brought in for sale. The highlight was a spectacular arrowhead-shaped watch fob with strap, from the 101 Ranch Wild West Show, with a beautiful encased 1913 buffalo nickel. Three people wanted to buy it, so it was auctioned. After about 15 minutes of bidding, it sold for \$110.00 to a visitor. (If only member Fred McGinnis were there! He loves such items and maybe would have paid more.)

**PREMIUM COINS AND TOKENS** Recently at one of our meeting's auctions, I bought an interesting book: "The American Card Catalogue; The Standard Guide On All Collected Cards and their Values" by J.R. Burdick, 1967. It covers all cards: advertising cards, postcards, insert cards (with tobacco and gum), souvenir cards, stereoscope cards, etc., etc., and related items. Among the Insert Cards section is a chapter on "Pin Buttons, Plastics, Metals." Under "Coins" are listed the series and who issued them (important information!). These would now fall under Play Money. The series listed are:

- Baseball Players, plastic, Armour Franks.
- Coins of the World, 120 diff., plastic, Topps Gum
- Domino Discs, 1" baseball player/domino, metal rim, Sweet Caporal Cigarettes
- Famous People, 7/8", Charms Candy
- Movie Stars, 7/8", Popsicle
- Movie Stars, 50¢ size, Alum., Pietz candy or gum
- Pirate Treasure, 1½", gray & gold plastic, Armour Franks
- President Coins, gilt plastic, 1 1/8", Topps
- Presidential Coins, Bronze, 1", Force Cereal
- Presidents, 7/8" alum., Cracker Jack
- Presidents, 7/8" alum., Charms Candy
- Sons of Liberty, 1½", gray plastic, 6 diff., Armour Franks

Catalogue values then were mostly 3¢ or 5¢ each, with the baseball ones at 10¢ & 20¢ each. Values now may be 50 to 100 or more times higher for the baseball coins. Also from this book is the Upside-Downs ad reproduced here.

(Send your free member ad for next issue to Steve Alpert - see page 2 for address.)



#### FREE ADS FROM MEMBERS:

For Sale - 100 different old slot and amusement machine tokens, \$12.50 postpaid. Steve Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066

For Sale brand new [condition] Volume Two California Tokens by Album (Central & Southern Calif.), \$12 postpaid. Dan Manasselian, P.O.Box 8342, Fresno, CA 93747. Multiple order discount.

Chuckie Cheese tokens, no town, 1980, 1, 2 25¢ ea. Citrus Heights '81 Hayward '81 San Jose 78-79-81 50¢ ea. Santa Cruz Boardwalk tickets good for any ride, 25¢. Car wash & Sopsra tokens wanted, will trade. John Nicolosi, 2565 Portola Dr. Space 43, Santa Cruz, CA 95062-5044

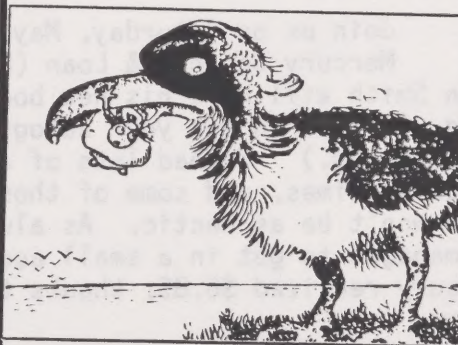
Cash paid for 7,150 tokens and medals in 1989. Many more needed in 1990. Check our high buying prices. Bill Williges, Box 1245, Wheatland, CA 95692

Will trade my "5" different athletic medals for any "12" diff. Good-Fors. Sam Petry, P.O.Box 167, St. John, IN 46373

Do you collect or have any WWI Service medals issued by states, counties, cities, or towns? If so, I'll buy or sweep. Particularly interested in California medals. Small, Box 19262CA, Jacksonville, FL 32245

If you have a token-collecting friend or correspondent who you think may be interested in joining the Calif. Assn. of Token Collectors, tell him about us or send us his name & address. Thanks.

## THE INCREDIBLE UPSIDE-DOWNS



of  
Gustave  
Verbeek

TURN THIS  
PICTURE  
UPSIDE-DOWN

This book is a collection of comic strips like you've never seen before. You read each page for the first half of the story — turn it upside down to finish the story. These wonderful strips appeared in the years 1903-1905. This is the first time they have been available in 58 years.

PAPERBOUND — 32 pages \$2.25

## Specialty spotlight

COIN WORLD, Wednesday, April 25, 1990

## Amusement Token Collectors Association

328 Avenue F  
Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277

Club established in 1980. No member information available. Dues are \$5.

Scope of the organization promotes the collecting and cataloging of amusement tokens.

Special events/publications includes publication of the monthly newsletter "The Jackpot" and the standard amusement catalog, "Video Arcade, Pinball, Slot Machine and Other Amusement Tokens of North America" by Stephen Alpert and Kenneth Smith.

Meetings are held from 1-5 p.m. the third Saturday of the month in the Mercury Room of the Mercury Savings and Loan Association, 22939 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, Calif.

Officers are Kenneth E. Smith, president; Stephen Alpert, vice president; and Kirk Smith, secretary-treasurer.





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JULY, 1990  
Issue No. 146

Stephen P. Alpert,  
Editor

**JULY MEETING:** Don't miss our July 21st meeting at Mercury Savings, in the Mercury Room (adjacent to main entrance of bldg.), at 22939 Hawthorne Blvd. in Torrance, from 1 to 5 PM. The theme of the meeting will be casino chips, tokens, and collectables. Many of our long-time members, as well as newer members, collect or are interested in casino chips and gaming tokens. In addition, 2 to 4 non-member guests who collect casino chips and tokens, and who have material for sale or trade, may be attending the meeting. Plus we will have a speaker, new member Ernest Marquez, who will give a brief talk on his research of the gambling ships that operated off southern California in the 1920s to 1940s. He is working on an indepth historical book on the gambling ships. If you have any information or items or souvenirs from the gambling ships, bring them to the meeting, along with any questions you may have on the subject. Ernie's talk will begin about 2:15 PM.

There will be, as usual, all other kinds of tokens and medals at the July meeting, which isn't limited to casino chips and tokens. I will be bringing lots of fresh material, including several bulging junk boxes full of medals, tokens, and wooden nickels, full of interesting stuff at bargain prices. We will have a club auction, too, so bring along something to sell or donate if you can.

So if you haven't been to a meeting lately, please try to attend, especially if you collect casino chips or tokens. I expect this July meeting to be one of our best in a long time. There's no newspaper publicity this meeting, so things shouldn't be too hectic.

**MAY MEETING REPORT:** Our last meeting was attended by members Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Bob and Harriet Carter, John McNett, Bob Ritterband, Ken Smith, and Elaine Willahan; plus Ernest Marquez who joined at the meeting, and guests Marc Weiser and Jim Sarra. There was the usual informal activity of trading-buying-selling and talking tokens, medals, casino chips, etc. Plus we had an unusually small auction, only four lots, which brought the club treasury \$2.55 thanks to a donation from Elaine. Ken Smith debuted his new book on foreign transportation tokens; he will have copies available for sale at the July meeting also.

**NEW MEMBERS:** We have five new members to welcome this time. Numbers 310 to 312 joined from the publicity Coin World gave our organization in a recent issue of their paper. All new members are encouraged to take a free ad in Token Topics to let other members know what they collect or wish to buy or sell.

- #308 Ernest Marquez of Canoga Park, CA
- #309 L. B. Fauver of Menlo Park, CA
- #310 Victor Zilaitis of Sun City Center, FL
- #311 Gerald H. Smith of Roswell, NM
- #312 Richard A. Blyth of Los Angeles, CA

**CES FULLERTON SHOW JULY 22:** One day after our meeting is the 30th Annual All-Day Collectibles Show of the Calif. Exonumist Society, from 9:30 to 4:30, at Griswold's Hotel, California Room, 1500 So. Raymond Ave. in Fullerton, just off 91 Fwy. Admission is only 50¢ and a free souvenir is planned. Steve Alpert will have a table there. Local CATC members could attend. Tables are still available at \$30 - phone show organizer Phil Iverson at 818-788-1129 to reserve your table. This is the only local show devoted mainly to exonumia, so give it your support!



TOPICAL NUMISMATICS SOCIETY: At the June Long Beach coin show, I met two members of the Topical Numismatics Society, 3708 Nipomo Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808. This new organization is for collectors of topical themes on coins, medals, tokens, and banknotes. Very popular topics are animals, especially elephants and turtles. Other members collect ships, maps, transit, worlds fairs, etc. Their newsletter (Vol.11, No.2, June, 1990) is 25 pages, 8½x11, typeset and illustrated.

The best news is that membership is FREE for 1990! Just write to the above address and let them know if they can publish your name, address, and topics. Some of their local members may be attending our CATC meetings.

EXCALIBUR CASINO  
By Steve Alpert

Last month, the enormous new Excalibur hotel and casino opened on the Strip in Las Vegas. It is advertised as the world's largest hotel (over 4,000 rooms), with a medieval castle theme and amusement park-like attractions. I visited it in late June, about a week after it opened, and I wasn't all that impressed. I was expecting something beyond all the other large hotel-casinos in Las Vegas, but I found nothing exceptional.

The Excalibur was built by the Circus Circus people. I entered their "Name the Castle" contest promotion 1½ years ago many times, and I thought I had the perfect name: "Castle Colossal." When they announced the winning name of Excalibur, I felt that they planned to use that name before they ran the Name the Castle contest, which I suspect was just a publicity sham. After all, what corporation would pour hundreds of millions of dollars into such a massive project, and then let someone else come up with the name?

One of my other entry names, "Castle Razzle Dazzle" seems more appropriate. After visiting Excalibur, to me the castle and medieval theme seemed superficial and just commercial hype. The employees (even the security guards) are all dressed in medieval garb that somewhat resembles court jesters. (Sort of appropriate - one of their casinos has clowns, the other fools.)

The Excalibur castle has four levels. Below the casino level are carnival games (just like at Circus Circus plus some medieval-themed ones, but twice as expensive to play), medieval crafts stands and shops (including a "Coinmaker" who strikes only stock brass medals with medieval zodiac-like designs, about 25¢ size, for \$5 each; they don't even mention Excalibur on anything else), souvenir carts, an amusement machine arcade, a 3-minute simulated wild ride attraction (\$1.50), and a jousting show (\$25) twice a night or so. This level is mainly children-oriented.

The main casino level is just a very large casino in a castle motif. The most original idea in the whole place, in my opinion, is their issuance of seven different \$1 gaming tokens, each picturing a different medieval figure. I believe this is the first time any casino anywhere has issued more than one dollar gaming token at the same time. Collectors trying to find all seven said it was a difficult task. Unfortunately they aren't selling sets of the seven tokens as souvenirs or for collectors. [Some Excalibur tokens should be available at our July meeting.]

Above the casino level is a medieval village - just a maze of streets and storefronts of restaurants, various stores (as found in most large casino malls), a small stage for live shows, etc. Unfortunately, I didn't see any of the strolling medieval entertainers, jugglers, king and queen, etc., that wander about the village and casino. The buffet in the village is just like the one at Circus Circus but almost twice as expensive, two people who ate there told me. (I rate the Circus Circus Buffet as the worst in Las Vegas, with barely edible food just like the lowest quality frozen dinner food and canned Chinese food you've ever had. But they pack in thousands of diners a day at the cheap \$2 to \$4 a meal prices.)

The fourth level, above the village. I didn't visit, as it has just a wedding chapel, beauty salon, and restaurant.

Missing was a dungeon, an important part of any castle. The entire gaming casino and hotel lobby could have been done in dungeon motif - dark and dank. That would give the place character. And a wax museum in a torture chamber would be an



interesting attraction.

I didn't study the gaming odds and features at the Excalibur, but one person informed me that they weren't too attractive to gamblers. Plus room rates are about twice that of Circus Circus, and the amusement games and souvenirs are expensive. Excalibur seems to be trying to attract the common average people (like Circus Circus does), but will the peasants support the castle, which is significantly more expensive than Circus Circus, and where parking is more difficult? Time will tell.

I liked better the other new gigantic Las Vegas Strip casino, The Mirage, which opened last year, from the Golden Nugget people. It has a luxurious tropical theme, with an active volcano and large waterfalls outside, an inside lagoon and rain forest you can walk through, a huge fish tank in the lobby, etc. I liked the decor - fancy carpets, marble floors and walls, mirrors, and abundant brass trim. They are after a more affluent clientele than Excalibur.

Their buffet (\$9.50 for dinner) is one of the best in town; originally named the Bermuda Buffet, it's now the Mirage Buffet. The comfortable chairs and large tables are spaced surprisingly far apart for a buffet. (At Circus Circus, tables are packed so tight that getting to your table is like one of those maze puzzles.) Even the parking lots at the Mirage are well laid out and luxurious in landscaping and walls.

The opinions of this article are those of the author, based on short visits to both casinos. Next time you visit Las Vegas, be sure to check out both Excalibur and the Mirage.

FREE ADS FROM MEMBERS: (Send yours to Steve Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066)

I am writing a book about the Gambling Ships that operated off S. Calif. from 1927-1939 and again in 1946. Seek items, chips, tokens, photographs, etc. Ernest Marquez, 24213 Hamlin St., Canoga Park, CA 91307, (818) 340-7601

For Sale 50 different trade tokens 5¢ to 1.00 with town & state, Minn. Iowa Ill. Wis. & S. Dak. \$1.00 each or will trade. Minn. chauffeur badges \$6.00 each. Have post cards 5¢ to \$5.00 each, will also trade. Cecil F. Meeker, 1524 N. Prairie, Fairmont, MN 56031

WANTED: Iowa trade tokens (metal, plastic, cardboard) and Iowa food stamp change tokens. For sale for \$15 ppd: Iowa City Trade Tokens by S. Schooley. Dan Anderson, P.O. Box 2752, Iowa City, IA 52244

WANTED: Old U.S. transportation tickets from street railway, bridge, ferry, toll road, horse railway, bus, merry-go-round, city railway, omnibus, steamer, etc. Dan Benice, Box 10068, Rockville, MD 20849

Will trade my "10" different medals for your "10" diff. Sam Petry, P.O. Box 167, St. John, IN 46373

Do you collect or have any WWI Service medals issued by states, counties, cities, or towns? If so, I'll buy or swap. Particularly interested in California medals. Small, Box 19262CA, Jacksonville, FL 32245

Still want all car wash tokens, especially SOFSPRA; have very good traders. Best offer over 3x catalog plus post.: Car wash IL135A-B-C, 855A, CA575A-B, 985B, Utah 485A, 750B, 860A. SAMBOS and McDonalds Wood Collections for sale. Calif. dog license tags, 10 or 20 all diff. my choice 25¢ each plus post., all unc. John Nicolosi, 2565 Portola Dr. Sp. 43, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

You needed some of the 20,415 tokens and medals Williges sold in 1989. Check our low-low prices. Free lists. Williges, Box 1245, Wheatland, CA 95692

I need to buy tokens and medals for resale! What do you have for sale? Write or ship for my cash offer. Collections to odds and ends needed now! Steve Alpert, P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066

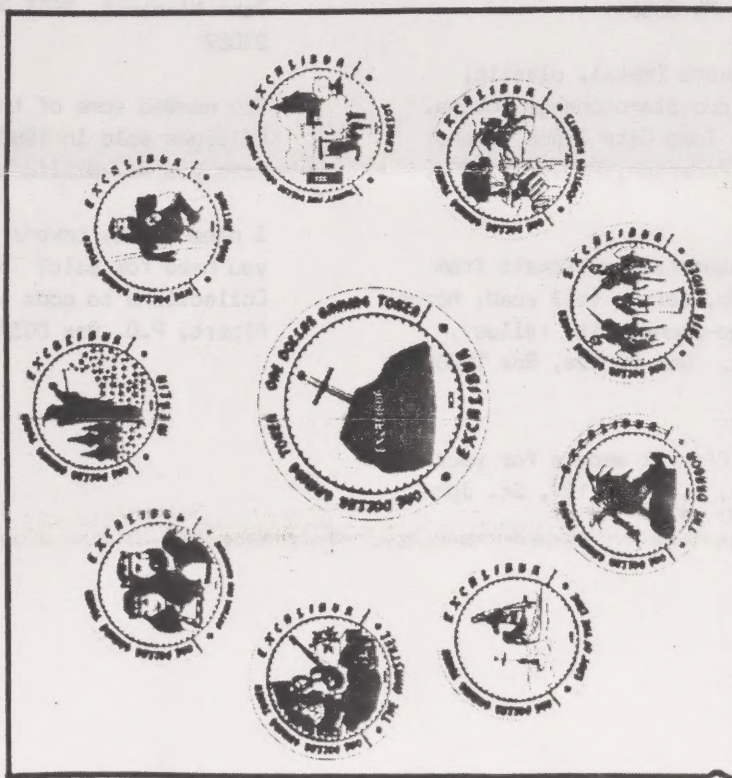


**Excalibur**

# Spectacular, Collectable One Dollar Slot Tokens

**E**xcalibur Hotel/Casino is the first hotel/casino in the world that has created a series of spectacular, collectable one dollar slot tokens. Nevada Coin Mart was selected to mint all of the gaming tokens for Excalibur, the world's largest resort/hotel with 4,032 rooms.

years of experience in the rare coin business and is one of only a few certified professional numismatists in the world. His expertise combined with the fact that there is no other hotel/casino as heavily themed as Excalibur, was what gave birth to having a collectable series of slot tokens.



## Excalibur Slot Tokens

Nevada Coin Mart has produced gaming tokens since 1984. Stan Zurawski, president of Nevada Coin Mart has over 25

At this point, Linda Heptner, casino cage and credit manager, voiced her concerns about possible problems in the sorting process in the hard count room.

Heptner's concerns were alleviated with two major design considerations. First, the circular inside edge on both sides was made with scallops and secondly, although each coin has a different design on the front, all of the backs have the Excalibur sword on the rock.

According to Vignola, "Once we had decided on a basic design, the themes were limitless."

Since seven is a lucky number in Las Vegas, Nevada Coin Mart's in house art department developed seven unique token designs to start the collection. They include King Arthur and Queen Guinevere, Merlin, King Arthur alone (a five dollar token), Camelot (a \$25 token), Jousting Knights, the Fair Maiden, the Dragon, Lady of the Lake and The Minstrel.

Each token is proof-like in quality and appearance with brilliantly-clean definition and images.

"The first seven tokens in the series will be the most valuable and rare because of their limited mintage," says Zurawski. "When all coins are struck, the dies that formed the coin will be cancelled so no other coins can be minted

with that same die in the future. This will absolutely guarantee their authenticity and rarity."

Continuing Zurawski explains, "As additional coins are needed, a new member of the series will be introduced."

"It's great that all of my original concerns have been addressed and Excalibur is able to present these outstanding tokens to the public to be used in any of our dollar slots and on the blackjack tables," confides Heptner.

"Opening Excalibur has been extremely challenging," states Vignola, "However, this project has been particularly exciting because of it's uniqueness."

For the serious collector, three dimensional tokens will be available in all Excalibur gift shops. They will be an affordable Las Vegas souvenir today, with potentially great value as a collector's item in the future.

Welcome  
To  
Las Vegas



# TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

SEPTEMBER, 1990  
Issue No. 147

Stephen P. Alpert,  
Editor

SEPTEMBER MEETING: After our big turnout last meeting (see below), I hope we have another well attended meeting this month. The date is Saturday, Sept. 15th; the time is 1 to 5 PM; the place is the same: The Mercury Room of Mercury Savings, 22939 Hawthorne Blvd., in Torrance. No speaker is scheduled, but last minute or informal volunteers are always welcome. I sent a press release to the 54 Hours column of the Los Angeles Times. If it gets published, we might have another flood of visitors bringing material to sell or have appraised.

I have received a consignment of numismatic books to sell at our Sept. auction. If you have material to sell or donate to the auction, bring it along; we especially need more tokens and medals to appear in the auctions. And bring along any casino chips, tokens, and collectibles you may have; many of our new members collect them.

JULY MEETING REPORT: Eighteen people attended the July meeting: members Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Dick Bestard, Jack Boberg, Bob and Harriet Carter, Ken Dingman, Ernie Marquez, John McNett, Wally Shidler, Ken Smith, Mark Weiser, and Elaine Willahan. Plus the following two guests joined at the meeting: Ernie Wheelden (#313, collects gaming chips) and Mike DeGhetto (#314, collects transportation tokens). Also present were guests Walter Dirzulaitis, Jim Sarra, and Travis Miller.

Ernie presented an interesting talk on the gambling ships that operated off Southern California in the 1920s to 1940s, and brought along photos of many of the ships. Our club auction had just 9 lots of diverse material. Of the 8 lots that sold, we had seven different people as purchasers. The club treasury was enriched by \$8.25 from the auction, thanks mainly to a lot donated by Jack Boberg.

OBITUARIES: I'm sorry to report that two of our local members have recently died: Don Bestle and Daniel Ching. Both were well known among local collectors and dealers, and they shall be missed. Don, who died about 6 months ago, was a dealer in casino chips and tokens (Deb's). Dan was an avid collector of Chinese-American tokens, postcards, and paper, telephone tokens, and numerous other topics, right up to the end. Unfortunately both Don and Dan were unable to attend our meetings in recent years. We lost Dan to complications from an incurable hereditary blood disease that had slowed him down the past year.

NEW EXHIBIT OF MEDALS AT L.A. COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART: Last month, 150 pieces from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's collection of about 1300 medals went on display, in a new exhibit on the second floor of the Ahmanson Building. The European medals displayed range from the 1400s to the 1900s. They are exhibited in about 14 multi-shelved display cases, with identification and historical data, in the Medals room, #212. I visited the exhibit and spent about a half hour admiring the medals. There are many impressive and beautiful old medals on display (but only one token). What I admired most was two sets of old pictorial game counters (mid 18th century I believe - I didn't take notes) made of silver, some gold plated, that were totally and beautifully hand engraved. They appeared to be a bit larger than a quarter, but thinner. With them are two original silver cylindrical ornate boxes (each holds about two dozen counters) with latticework sides and a monarch pictured on top.

I recommend that all local fellow exonumists see the exhibit. Museum admission is \$5.00; but on the second Tuesday of each month admission is free.



FREE MEMBER ADS: (send yours to Steve Alpert for next issue)

Purchase a copy of "The Best of Token Topics", highlights of the first 100 issues of this publication, for my regular price of \$7.00 postpaid, and I'll pay your \$3.00 CATC dues for 1991! Offer expires Sept. 30th, and good at Sept. meeting. Stephen P. Alpert, P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066

Chauffeurs badges from California-Oregon-Arizona-Nevada (& other states) wanted by collector of all state-issued chauffeur badges. Please price. Mike O'Brien, 2305 Coach & Surrey Ln., Aurora, IL 60506

Will trade my "50" different tokens & medals for your "50" diff. Sam Petry. P.O. Box 167, St. John, IN 46373

For Sale: "Catalogue of Calif. Trade Tokens Volume Two", New. \$12 postpaid. This book shows Central & Southern Calif. plus San Francisco. Daniel Manasselian, P.O. Box 8342, Fresno, CA 93747

I want Florida merchant tokens and most anything that's Florida. Please contact Victor Zilaitis, 2018 Heathfield Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573

Wanted. Wisconsin tokens, medals, etc. Have traders esp. CA or will purchase. Jim Freiberg, 4660 59th St., San Diego, CA 92115

Sons of the Beach / 4 Bits (sailing vessel) / pieces of eight / Crescent City California // (Pirate, sword, treasure chest.) - Kappen # 22. Brass. 31mm, \$5.86 prepaid. 2 for \$10.86. Free lists. Williges, Box 1245, Wheatland, CA 95692

I have many Foreign Transp. Tokens to trade for Tokens same catalog value, send want list of countries wanted and items you may have to trade. (Smith #s 1990) Also still wanting and trading all Car Wash Tokens. (see) July add still available., most all items. Spinner - Good for one double Cola at your dealer Plus deposit if Taken Out-/arrow, Alum..\$1.00 plus sase-or trade for other (Used in San Francisco-Oakland Area). John Nicolosi, 2565 Portola Dr., Space 43, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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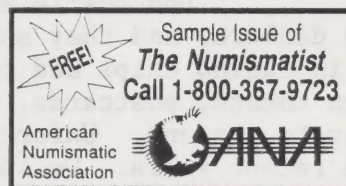
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# TOKEN TOPICS

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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

NOVEMBER, 1990

Issue No. 148

Stephen P. Alpert,  
Editor

**DUES TIME:** It's time to renew your CATC membership for 1991; please mail your \$3.00 dues to Steve Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066. As we are low on membership cards, they'll be sent only to those who request one. If you'll be at the Nov. 17th meeting, you can pay your dues then.

**NOVEMBER MEETING:** Join us on Saturday November 17, 1-5 PM, at our regular meeting place in the Mercury Room of Mercury Savings, 22939 Hawthorne Blvd., in Torrance. There may be a nice treat in store for us at the meeting. The Money Tree, dealers in numismatic literature, in Rocky River, Ohio, is donating books to coin clubs around the country. I requested some for CATC last summer, and asked for exnumia books if possible. Late last month they wrote me stating they will be sending us two boxes of books in November. If they arrive before the meeting, I'll bring them unopened to the meeting. I suggest we have a drawing at the meeting, with four winners from the members present getting to each select one book free; then we auction all the others, with all proceeds going to our treasury.

Don't forget to bring along material to sell or trade or for the auction.

A new book on the Trade Tokens of Nevada was just published last month. I have 2 copies left for sale, which I'll bring to the meeting. My price is \$16 (a \$4 savings). If you want to reserve a copy, phone me (213-478-7405). The book covers older Nevada trade tokens (1940s and earlier). Casino tokens, modern tokens, and souvenir tokens of Nevada will be the subject of another book.

Also at the November meeting we need to determine club officers for 1991. A local volunteer to take over as president and editor would be greatly appreciated. I don't have enough time to do a proper and better job of preparing Token Topics and promoting our club; plus I need a break after many years as president.

**NEW MEMBERS:** #315 Walter Dirzulaitis, Hawthorne, CA  
#316 Ken Barr, San Jose, CA  
#317 E.K. Witt, Medford, OR

**SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT:** Present were 10 members: Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Dick Bestard, Robert & Harriet Carter, Walter Dirzulaitis, Wally Shidler, Ken Smith, Marc Weiser, And Elaine Willahan. Plus guest Jim Sarra. Our auction featured about two dozen numismatic books, plus a few tokens and other miscellaneous items.

**FREE ADS FROM MEMBERS:** (Send them to Steve Alpert, address below; include one with your dues payment!)

**FOR SALE:** Six-piece token set: "The Fair", Webster, S.D., 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c, \$1, \$5; brass, various shapes, XF. \$12.50 per set, postpaid. Stephen P. Alpert, P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066

**DO YOU** collect or have any WWI service medals issued by states, counties, cities and towns? If so, I'll buy or swap. Particularly interested in California medals. Small, Box 19262CA, Jacksonville, FL 32245

**WANTED:** Iowa paper or cardboard trade tokens (round or rectangular, new or old) for my personal collection and any help you could give me on my cataloging project on same. Daniel D. Anderson, P.O. Box 2752, Iowa City, Iowa 52244



"STILL WANTING all Car wash tokens especially SOFSPRA, good traders in Transp-Parking-Carwash-and some Foreign TTs- I have my personals still available for a proper SASE would also like yours if any available. Silver dollar size-PKS-SEC-Think Safety-Many inscriptions Southern Electrical Contractors, Safety Dollar-etc etc UNC. \$1.00 Plus SASE(45¢)PKS--Peter Kewitt Const. John Nicolosi, 2565 Portola Dr. Sp.43, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

WILL TRADE up to "200" different amusement tokens for same number of yours. Sam Petry, P.O. Box 167, St. John, IN 46373

MARYSVILLE, CALIF. Home Dairy. Kappen #41 and 42. \$15.85 prepaid. Williges, Box 1245, Wheatland, CA 95692

WANTED: Old key I.D. tags with incuse names and addresses. Any shape, any logo. Nice condition only. Ship with your best price, or describe for offer. E.K. Witt, 44 N. Orange St., Medford, OR 97501

GOLDEN STATE COIN SHOW: This large local show, the combined efforts of CSNA, COIN, NASC, & SIN, will be held Jan. 25-27, 1990, in Pasadena.

The discount coupon reproduced here can be cut out or copied and used to save \$1 on admission. There will be 104 tables.

## **GOLDEN STATE COIN SHOW**

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